

Remarks

Claims 1-22 are pending with claims 1 and 12 being independent. Claims 2-4, 6, 13-15 and 17 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being drawn to non-elected subject matter. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 7-12, 16 and 18-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Helterline (U.S. Patent No. 5,473,351). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

At the outset, Applicants note that all previously advanced arguments are incorporated by reference herein. Applicants would now like to address one particular distinction between the presently claimed invention and the cited reference, namely the difference between the presently claimed “density correction data” and Helterline’s look-up table 52. Applicants submit that the Examiner’s reliance on the latter to teach the former is inappropriate.

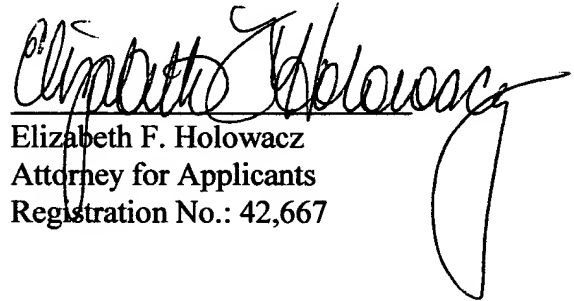
Helterline shows that input ΔDV of table 52 represents a difference between a desired drop volume and an actual drop volume. Such a difference is not a printing condition as set forth in the present invention; according to the present invention, printing conditions are conditions according to which the printing means performs printing. In Helterline, the printing means does not perform printing according to the difference between desired drop volume and actual drop volume per se; instead this difference is merely a signal inputted to the table 52. As such, it is different from the density correction data of the present invention which can be stored in the retaining means.

For at least the above-noted reason, Applicants submit that the presently claimed invention is not anticipated by Helterline. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §102 rejection is respectfully requested.

This Response After Final Rejection is believed to place this application in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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